

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
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R 151109Z SEPT 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5401
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3171

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SU
SUBJECT: NOTES ON RECONCILIATION

REF: A. FBIS 142100Z SEPT 77, B. FBIS 131441Z SEP 77,
C. KHARTOUM 3134, D. KHARTOUM 3107

1. IN ID AL-FITR SPEECH SEPTEMBER 14 TO NATION AND ARAB
PEOPLE, PRESIDENT NIMEIRI ANNOUNED THAT MANY SUDANESE HAVE
RETURNED TO KHARTOUM IN RESPONSE TO HIS INITIATIVE IN PROCLAIMING
A GENERAL AMNESTY FOR DISSIDENTS. COMMENTS WERE SUMMARIZED BY
CAIRO
RADIO IN ARABIC (REF A). NIMEIRI MADE NO MENTION OF SUCH PROMINENT
EXILES AS SADIQ AL-MAHDI AND HUSSEIN AL-HINDI. HE
ALSO FAILED TO MENTION CABINET SHAKE-UP OF SEPTEMBER 10.

2. IN AN UNDATED INTERVIEW IN LONDON WITH SADIQ AL-MAHDI,
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WHICH FBIS QUOTED FROM PARIS LE MONDE ON SEPT 13 (REF B),
COMMENTATOR ERIC ROULEAU SAID SADIQ AL-MAHDI HAD GIVEN
NIMEIRI SEVEN POINTS AS BASIS FOR RECONCILIATION NEGOTIA-
TIONS. POINTS ONE AND TWO ARE QUOTE REPEAL OF STATE OF
EMERGENCY UNQUOTE AND QUOTE WITHDRAWAL OF EGYPTIAN

TROOPS FROM SUDAN. UNQUOTE. NO STATE OF EMERGENCY IS KNOWN TO EXIST NOW IN SUDAN. THE CONSEQUENCES OF PREVIOUS STATES OF EMERGENCY, SUCH AS ARBITRARY ARRESTS, SPECIAL COURTS, AND JAIL TERMS WERE REPEALED BY THE AMNESTY ACT OF AUGUST 7, 1977. ALTHOUGH A FEW EGYPTIAN MILITARY TECHNICIANS ARE OFTEN PRESENT IN SUDAN, THERE ARE NO EGYPTIAN TROOPS STATIONED HERE. POINTS THREE AND FOUR CALL FOR QUOTE REBALANCING UNQUOTE OF SUDAN'S RELATIONS WITH GREAT POWERS AND WITH AFRICAN STATES. SADIQ'S PRAISE OF SOVIET WEAPONS AS EASIER TO HANDLE, MORE PLENTIFUL AND LESS CUMBERSOME THAN THOSE OFFERED BY WEST IS REGARDED HERE AS CONTENTIOUS IN VIEW OF SUDAN ARMY'S CONTRARY OPINIONS. ACCORDING TO INTERVIEW, SADIQ DISLIKES NIMEIRI'S PRO-WEST SLANT AND HIS LACK OF 'NEUTRALITY' IN AFRICAN CONFLICTS.

3. LAST THREE POINTS ARE: REFORM OF DOMESTIC INSTITUTIONS IN ORDER TO DEMOCRATIZE THEM; RESTORATION OF POLITICAL AND CIVIL FREEDOM; AND TRANSFORMATION OF SOLE LEGAL POLITICAL PARTY (SUDAN SOCIALIST UNION) INTO QUOTE TRUE NATIONAL ALLIANCE UNQUOTE WHICH WOULD INCLUDE LOCAL COMMUNISTS IF THEY ABANDONED CONCEPTS SUCH AS DICTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT AND BLIND LOYALTY TO USSR. ON THESE POINTS, NIMEIRI HAS IN FACT LAUNCHED NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND AMNESTY PROGRAM AND HAS FREED HUNDREDS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE IS UNLIKELY TO OBTAIN A CHANGE OF HEART FROM SUDAN COMMUNISTS OR TO INCLUDE THEM IN ANY SIGNIFICANT PUBLIC ROLES. NONETHELESS, THERE IS EVIDENCE
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THAT SSU IS BEING PREPARED TO ASSIMILATE OR TO ACCOMMODATE RETURNING EXILES IN SOME WAY (REF C).

4. CONCLUSION BY ERIC ROULEAU IS THAT COMPROMISE BETWEEN SADIQ AL-MAHDI AND PRESIDENT NIMEIRI MAY BE IMPOSSIBLE AND THAT QUOTE CERTAIN QUALIFIED OBSERVERS IN KHARTOUM UNQUOTE MAINTAIN THAT NIMEIRI IS NOT EVEN PREPARED TO OPEN NEGOTIATIONS. AS DEPT AWARE, NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN ACTIVELY PURSUED FOR SOME TIME AND RETURN OF SADIQ IS EXPECTED BY TOP LEVELS OF SUDANGOV (REF D). POSSIBLE EXPLANATION FOR UNCOMPROMISING TONE OF INTERVIEW IS THAT IT WAS MADE BEFORE NEGOTIATIONS WERE STARTED. IT IS PLAUSIBLE AS BASIC DOCUMENT WITH WHICH SUDANGOV HAS BEEN WORKING FOR SOME TIME, BUT IMPLAUSIBLE AS EVIDENCE OF CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS. BERGUS

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